

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 GAO-01 ABF-01

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P R 161117Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7944

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USOECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 8665

FOR TREASURY, STATE (EUR/WE AND EB), OMB

PASS GAO

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR ASSISTANCE IN BUDGET TECHNIQUES

1. THE FISCAL STUDIES INSTITUTE (IFS) OF THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF FINANCE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN EXTENSIVE, ON THE SPOT STUDY OF US BUDGET AND CONTROL MECHANISMS. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT ITS BUDGET PROCESS AND CONTROL MECHANISM ARE DEFICIENT, AND FOR THIS REASON THE GOS WISHES TO STUDY IN DETAIL THE US SYSTEM. SPANISH OFFICIALS OF IFS ARE NOW ALSO STUDYING FRENCH SYSTEM.

2. IFS IS NOT INTERESTED IN AN ACADEMIC APPROACH. IT WOULD LIKE TO SEND A TEAM TO WASHINGTON TO MEET FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS WITH US EXPERTS IN TREASURY, OMB, GAO AND IN STATE LEVEL GOVERNMENT (LATTER INCLUDING EDUCATION BUDGET). IFS EXPERTS HOPE TO BE ABLE REVIEW ACTUAL BUDGET DOCUMENTS AND BUDGET CONTROL STUDIES (I.E. GAO CRITIQUES).

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3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO BE

AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE USG HELPFULNESS
IN A TECHNICAL AREA OF IMPORTANCE TO THE SPANISH
GOVERNMENT. GOS HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS THAT AMERICAN
EXPERTS CAN HELP WITH EXPERIENCE THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE
WHEN OVERHAULING SPANISH BUDGET SYSTEMS. IF VISIT
CAN BE ARRANGED, SPANISH ACCEPT THAT THEY WILL PAY ALL
OF THEIR OWN EXPENSES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT
CONTACTING IFS REP, JESUS PALACIOS, NOW IN NEW YORK
AS A GOS DELEGATE TO THE UN, FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND
TO DETERMINE WHETHER A LATER VISIT BY A TEAM OF IFS
EXPERTS CAN BE ARRANGED. PALACIOS CAN BE CONTACTED
IN NEW YORK THROUGH THE SPANISH MISSION TO THE UN,
OR DIRECTLY AT THE HOTEL DOVER (TEL. 335-0100).
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUDGETS, VISITS, STUDIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID08665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760427-0280
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761145/aaaabmiv.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR ASSISTANCE IN BUDGET TECHNIQUES
TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, PFOR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006